

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TO THE

*Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, recommending an appropriation for the removal and subsistence of a number of Stockbridge and Munsee Indians.*

JANUARY 7, 1840.

Submitted by Hon. Mr. White, referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 3, 1840.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a communication of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with an estimate accompanying it of the expense of the removal and subsistence of 169 Stockbridge and Munsee Indians, who have lately emigrated to the Indian territory west of the Mississippi, under circumstances detailed in the communication; and respectfully recommend that the necessary provision may be made to meet the expense thus incurred.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

HON. HUGH L. WHITE,  
*Chairman Committee Ind. Affairs, Senate.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Indian Affairs, December 7, 1839.*

SIR: The treaty concluded by the Hon. Albert Gallup, late commissioner for that purpose with the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians, on the 3d of September last, which was laid before you with my report of the 16th October last, for submission to the President and Senate for ratification, provides that "whenever those" of these Indians "who are desirous of emigrating, shall signify their wish to that effect, the United States will defray the expenses of their removal west of the Mississippi, and furnish them with subsistence for one year after their arrival at their new homes;" and that an exploring party may visit the country west, if the Indians shall consider it necessary, the expenses to be borne by the emigrants. Mr. Gallup was specifically instructed that "the Indians must be given to understand that no step under the treaty can be taken until it shall be ratified by the President and Senate, and the necessary appropriations made by Blair & Rives, printers.

Congress." Under these circumstances, I learn, with surprise, that a party of these Indians have already, without consulting the department or its agents, so far as is known, removed to the Indian territory west, with the intention of passing the winter with the Delawares, to whom they are related. Of their journey from the place of their late residence to Prairie du Chien, nothing is known; but it appears that at the latter place they entered into a contract with the master of a steamboat for their transportation to St. Louis, he agreeing to look to the Government of the United States for his compensation; and that at St. Louis they presented themselves to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, who, although unacquainted with them, or the obligations of the Government to them, except so far as he could learn them from a copy of the unratified treaty which he states they submitted to him, was induced, by their destitute condition, to provide for their transportation to the Delaware country, and for their subsistence after their arrival.

The report of the commissioner, Mr. Gallup, refers to a request which accompanies it, of a party of Delawares and Munsees, numbering 115 or 120, who, some two years ago, came from Canada, and settled among the Stockbridges and Munsees in Wisconsin. They ask that provision may be made for their removal west with the emigrating party of the Stockbridges. Mr. Gallup correctly refused to insert any stipulation to that effect in the treaty with the latter, not having been authorized to do so. The superintendent for Wisconsin was, however, instructed that the department was willing to gratify them, and was authorized to inform them that application would be made to Congress for the necessary means of emigrating them with the Stockbridges and Munsees; and that, should the funds be granted, they would be removed at the same time with them.

The contract made by the Indians who have now gone west with the master of the steamboat, is signed by two of those who signed the treaty as Stockbridges, and also by two of the Canadian Indians, whose names are signed first on the petition forwarded by Mr. Gallup. From this fact it is evident that the emigrant party is composed of the Canadian as well as Stockbridge Indians; but of the precise number of each I am not informed. Measures will be immediately taken for a muster of the whole party; which, it is reported, numbers 169 souls; the proportion of each can then be ascertained, as well as the names of those (if any) who are designated in the schedule annexed to the treaty as forming the "emigrating party," who still remain in Wisconsin.

Much as I regret and disapprove of these hasty and unauthorized proceedings of the Indians, yet, as they cannot now be corrected, and as great sufferings would undoubtedly be produced by a contrary course, I have concluded to submit this statement of the facts to you, with a recommendation that an appropriation may be asked of Congress to cover the expense of their transportation and subsistence for one year from the date of their arrival west. For this purpose I have the honor, respectfully, to submit the enclosed estimate.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

*Secretary of War.*

*Estimate of the expense of removing and subsisting 169 Stockbridge and Munsee Indians from Green Bay to Fort Leavenworth, and of their subsistence for one year.*

For transportation of 169 Indians, with their baggage, from Green Bay, via Prairie du Chien and St. Louis, to Fort Leavenworth	\$4,488 00
For one year's subsistence in the new country after their arrival	7,402 20
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	11,890 20

